Robert Leslie checks out whether the state of Utah lives up to its 'Greatest Snow' slogan

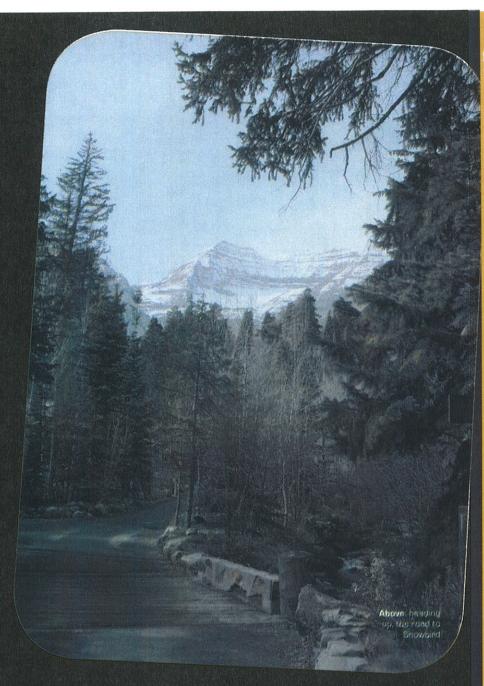


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WITH TYPICAL US OF A MODESTY.

Deer Valley is no





The day I was there, a celeb slalom was taking place. There was the guy from Beverley Hills 90210, the one from Seinfeld, the chap from the Sopranos and the one that's married to Gwen Stefani.

The Olympic park with its fully-functional ski jump hill and bobsled track is impressive and for \$200 you can even hop in a sled and experience the 5Gs of force and 80 miles-anhour speeds for yourself.

Park City nightlife can also prove a distraction. The main street is a pinball alley of bars and restaurants and, contrary to popular belief, skiers can actually drink alcohol in Utah without being clapped in irons. The drinking rules are complex, though, and unless you're eating food or are a 'member' of a bar [which costs \$5 for you or someone who'll 'sponsor' you], beer is limited to 3.2 per cent in strength, and wines and spirits are out of the question. As I took off from Salt Lake City airport, the ground almost instantly disappeared in a whirl of crystalline white. Utah was getting another delivery and I made a mental note to return, soon, but with much, much bigger skis. 🌎

SNOTES

UTAH, USA

skiutah.com



Getting there: fly to Salt Lake City direct with Delta (delta.com), United Airlines (united.com) or KLM (klm.com)



Tour operators: High-end: Ski Dream [skidream.com] Mid-range: Crystal [crystalski. co.uk] Budget: Virgin Holidays [virginholdays.co.uk]

Season dates: November - April



ΔΙΤΔ

Vertical drop: 3,216-2,600m Terrain: 2,200 acres Pistes:



25

Snowmaking: 50 acres Number of runs: 116 Lift passes: \$66 a day No boarding

DEER VALLEY

Vertical drop: 2,917-2,003m Terrain: 2,026 acres Pistes:

25%

50%

25

Snowmaking: 560 acres Number of runs: 100 Lift passes: \$86 a day No boarding

PARK CITY

Vertical drop: 3,490-2,104m Terrain: 3,300 acres Pistes:

17% 5

33

Snowmaking: 475 acres Number of runs: 90 Lift passes: \$45 a day Snowpark: 4 terrain and a superpipe

SNOWBIRD

Vertical drop: 3,350-2,470m Terrain: 2,500 acres Pistes:

27%

38%

Snowmaking: 560 acres Number of runs: 89 Lift passes: \$72 Snowpark: 1 terrain

THE CANYONS

Vertical drop: 3,045-2,073m Terrain: 3,700 acres Pistes:

10% 44

469

Snowmaking: 300 acres Number of runs: 80 Lift passes: \$45 a day Snowpark: 2 terrain and a 6 natural halfpipes